

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A manually engageable control lever device for vehicles having handlebar-type steering that includes at least one handle grip and structure for mounting said device, said device comprising:

a main body including a readily manually engageable distal end and a mounting end, a central portion extending therebetween, said mounting end including first and second spaced wings and an actuator connecting structure, said wings adapted to receive means thereat for pivotably mounting said main body mountable at the structure and adjacent to the handle grip; and ~~and~~ ~~said main body having~~

at least a first flare extending therefrom from said central portion of said main body and adapted for secure engagement by either a user's finger or thumb to cause movement from a variety of user hand positions or angles at the handle grip once said main body is mounted, said main body and said first flare configured relative to each other so that said flare is oriented convergently relative to the handle grip once said main body is mounted, with a substantial but variable space defined

between said flare and the handle grip during operation of said device.

2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said main body includes a second flare extending from said a central portion of said main body opposite said central portion from said first flare and adapted for secure engagement by either a user's finger or thumb to cause movement.

3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said first ~~flair~~ flare has a length and wherein said main body has an overall length exceeding said length of said first flare.

Cancel claim 4.

5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2 ~~4~~ ~~wherein said main body includes a second flare extending from a central portion of said main body intermediate said ends and opposite said central portion from said first flare, and wherein both of said flares second flare and one of said ends~~ distal end of said main body are adapted for ~~secure~~ selective manual engagement to cause lever movement.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first flare of said main body defines a surface area

characteristic including a digitally engageable cradle and a digitally engageable extension surface.

Cancel claim 7.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 ~~7~~ ~~wherein the vehicles are snowmobiles and wherein said actuator connecting structure of said mounting end of said main body is elevated relative to said first and second wings, said distal end and said first flare includes engageable structure for actuator connection with said main body.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A device for modifying a manually accessible surface area of a motorized vehicle control lever having a manually engageable distal end ~~and~~ ~~movable~~ for lever movement toward and away from a handle grip of the motorized vehicle in a plane defined between the handle grip and the control lever, said device comprising: a main body including

a portion adapted to be mounted at the control lever contoured to fit the control lever for mounting thereat;
and 7

a first flare extending from said portion and adapted for secure engagement by either a user's finger or thumb for lever movement from a variety of user hand positions or angles once said device is mounted, said

~~portion of said main body contoured to fit the control lever so that~~ and said flare oriented relative to one another so that said first flare extends in a direction substantially normal to the plane of control lever movement when said device is mounted on the control lever.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 9 wherein said ~~portion of said main body~~ is of a length selected so that the distal end of the control lever remains readily manually engageable after said device is mounted.

11. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 9 further comprising ~~wherein said main body includes~~ a second flare extending from said portion opposite said portion from said first flare and adapted for secure manual engagement by a user.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 9 wherein said first flare and said ~~portion of said main body~~ define a surface area characteristic including a digitally engageable cradle and a digitally engageable extension surface.

13. (Original) The device of claim 9 further comprising a mounting unit, and wherein said portion

includes an engageable structure for receiving said mounting unit.

Cancel claims 14 through 19.

ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS:

20. A manually engageable control lever device for a vehicle having handlebar-type steering structure that includes at least one handle grip, said device comprising:

a main body having a mounting end and a distal end, said mounting end having first and second spaced wings adapted for pivotably connecting said device at the steering structure of the vehicle adjacent to the handle grip, and said distal end engagable for manual pivoting of said main body toward and away from the handle grip of the vehicle in a plane defined between the handle grip and said main body; and

first and second flares, each extending from between said first and second spaced wings, respectively, of said mounting end and said distal end of said main body in substantially opposite directions substantially normal to the plane of control lever movement for alternative engagement by either a user's finger or thumb for lever movement from a variety of user hand positions or angles once said device is mounted, said flares and said main

body together defining a surface area characteristic including a first and second digitally engageable cradles located between said flares and said main body.

21. The device of claim 20 further comprising a pivot receivable through first and second wings of said mounting end of said main body for pivotably connecting said main body to the structure.

22. The device of claim 20 wherein said surface area characteristic includes first and second digitally engagable extension surfaces at said first and second flares and adjacent to said first and second cradles, respectively.

23. The device of claim 20 wherein said flares have a length selected so that said distal end of said main body remains fully exposed and thus readily digitally accessible.

24. The device of claim 20 further comprising actuator connecting structure at said mounting end of said main body, said connecting structure being elevated relative to said first and second wings, said distal end and said first and second flares.